

Notes of Discussion

Project:	Northeast Freight Partnership		Job No/Ref:	
Purpose:	September Quarterly Partnership meeting		Date held:	22nd September 2015
Held at:	AECOM Offices, Newcastle		Made by:	M Page
Present:	Martin Murphy Gary Appleby Martin Forster John Bourn Mike Page Bruce Carnaby Graeme Heron Stuart Corker Roland Stiven Dave Bargh Ann Wilson	NECTAR Port of Tyne Sunderland City Council Northeast Combined Authority AECOM Newrail (Newcastle University) Newcastle University Gateshead Timber Forum CO-OP Teesvalley Unlimited	Distribution:	All
Apologies:	Malcolm Dodds Malcolm Bingham John Cram Nigel Cook Ian Radley Paul Davison	RHA FTA North Tyneside Council Elddis Transport Highways England AECOM		

No.	Item	Action By
1	<p>Attendance and apologies John Bourn (Chair) welcomed everyone and thanked AECOM for hosting the meeting at such short notice.</p> <p>Introductions were made around the room and apologies read out.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting held June 2015 and matters arising The minutes of the meeting held in June 2015 were agreed to be a correct record of the discussions.</p>	
3	<p>HGV Driving Apprenticeships MP talked about the new initiatives for encouraging the recruitment of HGV driver through apprenticeships.</p> <p>The UK has a shortage of HGV drivers and the average age of drivers is increasing. Therefore there is a requirement to attract younger drivers. Central Government is making funding available for the trainees.</p> <p>Fergusons Transport in the North East is being proactive to reverse this trend. Apprenticeships have been offered to people of age 19 onwards which is achievable since 2009 when the age limit to drive an HGV was reduced to 18</p>	

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years of age

The company initially placed an advert in the local papers in February to gauge the interest. A number of applications were received with three people employed as apprentices. They are looking for another three to go through the apprenticeship process. However, people who apply need to be local and will be on local deliveries, accompanied by a competent driver who sits in with the apprentices to manoeuvre around the local yard and possibly other companies' yards.

GA stated that the Port of Tyne have employed one apprentice.

DB said the COOP are currently training warehousemen to HGV standard and then can pull them into the fleet at peak times.

AW mentioned there was a scheme running at Stockton Riverside College, Logistics Academy to train young drivers.

4 **Smartfusion & Smartset**

BC updated the group with the outcome of the studies.

The study was a series of opportunities researching the impact and operational benefits from sustainable logistics.

From the success of the 2014 Consolidation Centre benefits model, it can be taken forward to other universities, providing a logistics service using electric vehicles (EV).

The model was needed as the main route into the university is pedestrianised and the campus is spread around the city. The university was receiving 600 vehicles each week so there was a need to carry out zoning and routing. This has resulted in more than 80% reduction in vehicle movements.

The university is willing to share its results which also gives an opportunity for other organisations to reduce vehicle movements, culminating with an approach from Crown Estates in London to model Regent Street.

BC advised that this was the last meeting he would attend in his current capacity as he is leaving his post with Newrail for a role with Clipper Logistics. He would still be happy to attend meetings and update the Partnership on progress with the consolidation project. JB thanked BC for his previous contributions to the Partnership and input to meetings.

5 **Timber Transport Forum**

RS talked about movement of timber from rural areas using country roads and the impact heavy vehicles have on the environment on a Victorian road network, villages and communities. They have 21st century industry using centuries old

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infrastructure.

We have on our doorstep the largest plantation forest in Europe (Kielder) which is managed by the Forestry Commission. About three quarters of woodland in the north of England is privately owned.

The Forum is the Central Group and consists of seven groups in Scotland and three in England. They have produced maps with agreed routes in all areas of timber movement. These could be linked into the North East suite of maps.

The Forum produces guidance on standards for best practice for tyres utilising the country roads aimed at reducing impact on the infrastructure.

Roots to prosperity:

- There is scope to increase timber production from under-managed forests
- Rail is still being utilised for timber movement but is expensive
- Forests are not rail connected so different legs present further costs

Britain is currently one of the biggest importers of timber other than China. There are 70% imports and 30% home grown to satisfy demand.

6 **Transport for the North**

John Bourn said that the UK's first pan-regional freight and logistics strategy is being carried out by Mott MacDonald and MDS Transmodal.

The Northern Powerhouse's objectives are to boost economic growth and rebalance the economy in Northern England.

The North has 34% of GB's large warehouse capacity and up to 60% of containers entering the UK are destined for the midlands and the north, however 90% arrive through southern ports.

Many major freight enterprises are committed to the North with strong investment records and plans. Opportunities may be limited by road and rail network capacity constraints and land use strategies and policies

The aim is to bring in an accessible and persuasive strategy that makes the case for freight development in the North. A comprehensive but user friendly repository of information that enables ongoing debate, dialogue and coordinated action will inform a plan of action, consistent with private sector vision and aspiration, which the public sector can support to mutual benefit.

Key objectives of the study include: add value to the UK economy by increasing the value of exports across the North, consider solutions to ensure that freight facilitate growth in the logistics sector whilst supporting carbon reduction and other environmental objectives; and identify national and international examples of best practice and how these could be applied across the North of England

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The key issues are, how can the private sector transport companies' potential and initiative in the North be best capitalised upon? Can a collective vision be developed and acted upon? Are current networks fit for purpose?

Other questions: are the planning and other regulatory systems achieving appropriate outcomes and how can sustainability and growth be aligned? How can competing demand on the networks be managed and how can freight be best integrated with passenger-led initiatives (e.g. with HS2 or HS3)?

A private sector reference group has been formed to help inform the strategy – including representatives from Port of Tyne and AG Barr covering this region.

A stakeholder event was planned for Liverpool on 1st October. The Northern Freight and Logistics Strategy will form part of the updated Northern Transport Strategy, to be presented to the Chancellor by the 2016 Budget,

The Project website can be found at <http://www.tfnfreight.org/>

7 Update on the year 11 business plan

FORS

The uptake numbers are stable but we will monitor affiliations as the renewal days are due. We will endeavour to get feedback as this occurs. We are experiencing encouraging data for members in the North East. There are 71 bronze, 39 dormant, 5 registered, 3 silver and 2 withdrawn making a total of 120 members.

The FORS workshops are planned as below and there has been a very encouraging uptake for sponsorship for venues to host the workshops.

September 2015				
10th	Mansion House, Gosforth	2 & 3	FS	alcodigital
24th	Counted4, Sunderland Enterprise Park	4 & 5	FS	N/a
October 2015				
8th	Durham County Council	6 & 7	FS	Brigade
November 2015				
12th	LaFarge, Birtley	8 & 9	FS	N/a
December 2015				
10th	AECOM Office, Newcastle	GFB & 1	FS	Brigade
January 2016				
14th	LaFarge, Birtley	2 & 3	FS	N/a
February 2016				
4th	LaFarge, Birtley	4 & 5	FS	N/a
18th	LaFarge, Birtley	6 & 7	FS	N/a
March 2016				
17th	AECOM Office, Newcastle	8 & 9	FS	Brigade

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Freight on Rail

The partnership was represented in the North East Rail Network Study (NERNS) consultation process. The last meeting was held in June at Stephenson Railway Museum and the next meeting is to be held at the AECOM offices on 18th November 2015.

Mapping

The review of the destinations maps is to take place in November through December. The five new maps for Durham and Northumberland will be produced in early 2016.

The master interactive map will be updated from the database produced from visiting the suite of 25 maps.

RS is to be contacted to provide information on the Timber Transport Forum maps to add to the Partnership website.

Vulnerable Road Users

The Safe Urban Driving courses have been organized and Fleetsource are to provide 6 Safe Urban Driving courses. They are going to be held at Bluewatch Youth Centre, Burdon Lane, Ryhope, Sunderland, the first one on October 10th.

The SUD courses are fully funded in association with Go Smarter. For further updates go to www.safeurbandriving.co.uk

Partnership Information

The website has been updated to include the new NECA logo and Northumberland and Durham logos. the site can now be found at www.northeastfreightpartnership.info

We continue to update the website with the latest information and will report on the usage at the December meeting.

HGV Cycle Safety

Agreed basis for trial with CycleAlert, Brigade (Safety Solutions for commercial vehicles & mobile plant) with camera monitor systems, ultra sonic obstacle sensors and Backwatch (Vehicle safety systems) with a similar portfolio of equipment. They are to provide free products and support.

Cycle Alert meeting with AG Barr to organise a pilot trial for the system, if interested let us know.

Other Tasks

All the other tasks are being progressed in line with schedules and budget.

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| 8 | <p>A.O.B.</p> <p>TfN Freight Study Stakeholder Conference</p> <p>The Conference is being promoted through the trade associations, but any support you can give locally would be very welcome.</p> <p>A flyer handout provided relevant information.</p> <p>The group were asked to register rather than just turn up on the day so that they can structure the discussion part of the day.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday December 8th at 10:30, venue to be confirmed</p> |
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